Contact: Andrea Bair 801-524-5137

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 22, 2013

Officials to test tsunami warning system in Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties during Tsunami Preparedness Week

NOAA and the California Emergency Management Agency plan to conduct a test of the tsunami warning communications system on March 27 between 11 a.m. and noon Pacific Daylight Time in coastal areas of northern California.

This emergency test will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local television and radio stations in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties. Residents in some communities may hear warning sirens.

Some television systems are programmed to scroll a standard emergency alert text message and in some cases, the message may not contain the word "TEST." An audio message will say that the message is only a test, but if the volume is turned down or otherwise unheard, viewers may not realize the message is a test.

To avoid confusion with an actual alert the test will be canceled if there is excessive seismic activity 24 hours prior to the test. People monitoring the test in coastal areas who do not receive it are asked to inform their local National Weather Service office. The public can provide feedback online at weather.gov/test.

The test is a cooperative effort between NOAA, the California Emergency Management Agency, California Broadcasters Association, and local emergency management officials in coastal California.

During National Tsunami Preparedness Week, March 24 -30, emergency managers urge coastal residents to review information on what to do in the event of a tsunami. NOAA's West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center Web site http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov, offers complete information, including the current status of tsunami watches, warnings and advisories. A list of frequently asked tsunami questions and answers can be found at http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/?page=help.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to save lives and livelihoods and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, NOAA's National Weather Service is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us online at weather.gov and join us on Facebook.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and our other social media channels.

On the Web:

NOAA's National Weather Service: http://www.weather.gov NOAA Tsunami Web site: http://www.tsunami.noaa.gov/ NOAA's West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center: http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov